

Drowning in Debt?
Reach Out!



902 482 2000 • 4debtrelief.com

FORGET THE
CHINESE TAKEOUT
MAKE YOUR OWN
DUMPLINGS {page 23}



TALKING HEATH
WILLIAMS OPENS
UP ABOUT HER
GRIEF {page 21}

HALIFAX

metro®

Weekend, December 24-26, 2010
www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.



Kelly wants cut of gas tax from N.S.

► Municipality currently receives five cents per gas-tax dollar from the federal government, gets nothing from the province

 **ALY THOMSON**
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

As the city heads into the new year, Mayor Peter Kelly says he wants to build a stronger relationship with the province. He

also wants a portion of the gas tax.

In an interview this week, Kelly said it's time for the Nova Scotia NDP to follow the lead of other Canadian provinces.

"(The province) should be looking at rebating or giving back as they do elsewhere in the country," he said, noting that Ed-

monton and Calgary receive five cents on every gas-tax dollar from their provincial government, Vancouver receives 12.5 cents and Montreal receives 1.5 cents.

A spokesman from the Finance Department was not available for comment yesterday. **WITH FILES FROM JENNIFER TAPLIN**



► Despite the hopeful message on the Clay Café window on Quinpool Road on Thursday, the HRM hasn't seen much snow this winter and the chances of having a white Christmas don't appear to be good.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

A white Christmas? Don't count on it



SALE STARTS TODAY THRU SUN

Your Neighbourhood Seafood Store

• Bringing Our Customers Quality, Service, Variety & Value Since 1948

Fresh Haddock Fillets
(Boned) (Never Frozen)

4.49lb
(Med-Large
Fillets)

Fresh Seabright Smoked
Salmon Sides Available
(1lb approx.)
(Cold Smoked)

Fresh Chowder Mix
(Whitefish, Salmon, Scallops
and Shrimp)

5.99lb

Shrimp-Shell On
(Raw) (Frozen)

31/40 Ct
5.99lb | 21/25 Ct
6.99lb

Cooked Frozen Snow Crab Meat
Leg Meat
(11.3oz Tray)
16.99ea

Leg & Body Meat
(11.3oz Tub)
6.99ea

WHILE
SUPPLIES LAST

Live Crab
Rock
1.99lb
Snow
5.99lb
(2-3lb Avg)

Frozen Nova
Scallop
Jumbo Dungeness
10.99lb
(2-3lb Avg)

Fresh Malpeque Oysters
Choice
Cocktail Size
.79ea
Standards (Limited Supply)
(Approx. 33 Ct)
14.99/box

Live #1 Hardshell Lobsters
(2 Claw) (1-1.5lb Avg)
6.99lb
Live Commercial Grade
Lobsters (2 Claw)

5.99lb
(fishers Run)
(1-1.5lb Avg)
6.49lb
(1-1.5lb Avg)

Merry Christmas
From Management
& Staff



Gift Certificates
& Platters Available

607 Bedford Hwy. 443-3474 • HOLIDAY HOURS: Thurs 9-6pm • Christmas Eve 9-5pm • Christmas CLOSED • Boxing Day 11-5pm

Politics
**Dexter's
year in
review**

► Premier reflects on his past 12 months in office in an exclusive interview with Metro {page 4}

**Movies
to watch
in the
new year**



Action will heat up with The Green Hornet, Sucker Punch {page 15}

**Tell me, who's
that again?**

Critics slam engraving of Wills, Kate on royal coin {page 11}

Happy holidays

Who was the city's top newsmaker of 2010? Find out in a special edition Monday. Metro will resume regular publishing Jan. 4.

All specials while quantities last



SUBARU

11

First 20 buyers receive a **FREE** Thule Skibox & Family Membership to Martock!™

2010 Final Clearout Sale!

HAPPENING NOW AT STEELE SUBARU IN DARTMOUTH



2010 OUTDOOR

OUTDOOR FORESTER INCLUDES:

All Wheel Drive, Cargo Tray, Roof Cross Bars, Trailer Hitch, Retractable Cargo Cover, Rear Bumper Step Pad and more.

2010 OUTDOOR PZEV

OUTDOOR FORESTER PZEV INCLUDES:

All Wheel Drive, Automatic Transmission, Cargo Tray, Cross Bars, Trailer Hitch, retractable Cargo Cover, Rear Step Pad, PZEV Emissions System, 16" Alloy Wheels, 10way Power Drivers Seat & more.

2010 SPORTECH

SPORTECH FORESTER INCLUDES:

All Wheel Drive, Sunroof, 10way Power Drivers Seat, Fog Lights, Pioneer In-Dash Navigation, Bluetooth Handsfree System, iPod USB integration, 17" Alloy Wheels.

STARTING FROM:

\$25,995

OR LEASE FROM:

\$385 with \$0 down*

Steele
SUBARU | DARTMOUTH

DARTMOUTH
670 Portland Street
Ph: 466-2835
www.steelesubaru.ca

SUBARU
•750 CASH
GRADUATE
Reward Program



SUBARU

*\$25,995 Outboard plus freight and PDI. Fees & Taxes extra. \$385 plus tax lease payment based on 2010 Outboard (Freight & PDI included). First month payment, fees and taxes due at signing. F&AC - see dealer for details. **2010-2011 season maximum 4 persons per family.

Last-minute shoppers strike

► But traffic and sales still down from previous years: Halifax Shopping Centre retailer



Angela Curran did about 75 per cent of her holiday shopping Thursday.

"Working for the post office, this is our busy time so there's not a lot of time to shop," Curran said while hitting the stores at the Halifax Shopping Centre Thursday.

Curran was one of scores of last-minute shoppers flooding the mall. Although Christmas Day is, well, this weekend, she insisted she's not stressed.

Jeff Bishop, another last-minute shopper, was also managing to keep his cool in the mayhem.

"I'm not worried ... I already know everything I'm going to get people," he said. "I'm in and out."

Amber Clark, manager of the shoe store Feetfirst, said she always sees an increase in shoppers in the days leading up to Christmas, but traffic is down from previous years.

"Not as many people are buying and a lot of people are waiting until after Christmas to get stuff now," Clark said, adding that a lot of people are buying gift cards rather than merchandise.

Clark herself admits that she's a last-minute shopper, too.

How last minute? She'll be buying all her presents today on her break, she said.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Bluenose II assets turned over

A tentative agreement could end a lengthy dispute between the Nova Scotia government and the former operator of the famed schooner Bluenose II.

The province announced Thursday that about \$1 million in funds and assets will be transferred from the Bluenose II Preservation Trust Society

to a new volunteer-led foundation.

The Schooner Bluenose Foundation is being established to raise funds for the continued operation of the province's sailing ambassador.

The society, led by Sen. Wilfred Moore, operated the ship from 1994 to 2005, when the previous Tory government gave the

contract to another operator.

Moore had said in 2006 that he'd wind down the trust and turn over the cash and assets to an independent body that had yet to be established.

Tourism Minister Percy Paris said the transfer will be completed in the new year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Two killed in accidents

ROADS. Two people have died in separate accidents in northern Nova Scotia and the Annapolis Valley, police say.

RCMP in Pugwash say a 33-year-old woman from Wallace died in a two-vehicle collision in the community at about 7 p.m. Wednesday. She was pronounced dead at the scene, while a 17-year-old

boy was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The second crash, a single-vehicle accident just west of Kingston, claimed the life of a 25-year-old Annapolis County man.

Weather warnings end

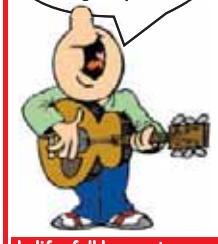
STORMS. Environment Canada has ended its weather warnings for most of Atlantic Canada, which has been pounded by high winds and rain for much of the week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HALIFAX FOLKLORE CENTRE

1528 Brunswick St.
422-6350
Located just off Spring Garden Rd.

Come to our
HOLIDAY SALE!
Guitars, banjos,
mandolins, ukes, etc...
at great prices



halifaxfolklorecentre.com

1
news



Buttoned-down BlackBerry prepares for an image overhaul in 2011. Scan code for the story.

1 Download the free ScanLife application with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use the ScanLife application on your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to relevant content at m.metroneWS.ca

On the web at metroneWS.ca

Stephen Harper praises Canada's place on the world stage in his annual holiday message. Video at metroneWS.ca

➲ A year and a half into his mandate, Premier Darrell Dexter muses on the difference between government and opposition ➲ Premier places importance on a public-private life divide, stresses the importance of family dinners and reading lists
➲ Tough tests lay ahead for Nova Scotia's first NDP government



TEXT ALEX BOUTILIER PHOTOS RYAN TAPLIN



Policy, criticism, and deficit Dexter talks tough

After his first full year in office, Premier Darrell Dexter says he's gained quite a perspective on the difference between being in power and being in opposition.

"I can't remember who, but somebody said years ago the worse possible training for government is opposition," laughed Dexter. "And there's an element of truth to that."

Reflecting on the past year from his office on the top floor of One Government Place, Dexter said it is much more complicated to develop policies and initiatives than to simply criticize everything that comes from the government of the day.

"The answers in opposition are very simple, and they're designed to be a sound bite. When you're in government, everything you do requires a firm public policy underpinning, it affects the budgets of departments," said Dexter.

"It is sometimes frustrating to have a well-

thought-out, well-constructed public policy piece to go up against a slogan on a billboard."

Dexter admits, however, that he and his party were no strangers to sound bite sniping pre-June 2009, when his party swept to power.

"(Policy) has the value of consultation, the investment of resources, and (slogans are) simply designed for political impact. And we were pretty good at the latter. I mean, we knew it pretty well. But it is a different thing when you're in government."

Political gamesmanship aside, Dexter said there is a real danger to dealing with criticism on a daily basis.

"It is often difficult to recognize what criticism is genuine, and what criticism is manufactured," he said. "If you just see a lot of it all the time, you can become desensitized to the real genuine concerns that people have. That's why it's very important for my caucus and my cabinet ministers that

they be out in their communities, that they don't spend all their time in their offices."

I never read the comments (on online news sites). It's always crazy. Of course, you know, you kinda wonder about the lives of people who are spending all their time doing that.

PREMIER DARRELL DEXTER

the first six months of the year were particularly arduous according to Dexter, but he feels his government is better for getting through them.

"It meant that some of the toughest days for po-

litical people took place very early on. I think it made our caucus members stronger, I think it made the cabinet members stronger," said Dexter.

"They got through those difficult days and I think emerged on the other side with a clearer sense of who they were and what they wanted to accomplish."

Dexter preferred to focus on the past six months — noting highlights like the Daewoo-Trenton wind turbine plant, the multibillion-dollar energy deal between Nova Scotia Power and Newfoundland's Nalcor, the response to John Ross' emergency room report, and the agreement between Halifax Regional Municipality and the province on the proposed downtown convention centre.

"When you're first starting these things, they're kind of in the aether, and you kind of don't know how they're going to manifest themselves," said Dexter.

But Dexter thinks some

of his government's policy priorities are finally starting to fall into place.

"You've seen a lot of pieces of public policy that have come forward in, I think, a very, very thoughtful and progressive manner."

Of course, those policies are also open to criticism. Dexter relates a story of a conversation he had with former Halifax mayor Allan O'Brien when Dexter was serving on Dartmouth City Council. When faced with a tough decision on council, Dexter sought O'Brien's advice.

"He said if you do things for the right reasons, you will never have to wonder why you did it. Years later, when somebody asks you to justify a decision, he said you will forget all the circumstances around it, but if you did it for the right reasons, that's what you'll remember."

"If you personally feel comfortable that you are doing the right thing for the right reasons, that makes all the difference in the world."

The elephant

The coming year will be a tough test for Dexter's government, with a projected \$370-million deficit looming on the horizon — the largest projected deficit of the government's oft-cited "back to balance" plan.

► The effect of departmental budget spending restraints will likely become more apparent as 2011 progresses.

► In addition to spending restraint, the province will embark on negotiating a new memorandum of understanding with Nova Scotian universities. If spending on universities were taken into account in this week's budget update, the province would not be running a \$97-million surplus, but rather a \$244-million deficit. With the O'Neill report recommending sweeping changes to the way universities in Nova Scotia operate — changes not welcomed by student groups — those negotiations could prove to be rocky.

IT'S THE EYE OF THE FLAVOUR STORM.
INSIDE YOUR REFRIGERATOR.



NOW YOU CAN BRING THE PUB EXPERIENCE HOME
WITH 473ML CANS OF RICKARD'S RED®.



A PINT OF DELICIOUS

New Year's Eve: Lots of ways to celebrate

► Westin New Year's Eve features Mike Bullard, Shane Ogden and Lawrence Morgenstern

 **ALY THOMSON**
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

After the presents have been ripped open and our bellies stuffed with turkey, thousands of Haligonians will be slipping into sequined dresses and tightening their ties for New Year's Eve celebrations.

Here are a few events where you can count down to 2011:

Captain Morgan's New Year's Halifax Forum Multi Purpose Room, 9 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Tickets: \$40; \$99 for VIP.

About 1,500 people will flood the Halifax Forum for

a night of dancing at Captain Morgan's New Year's party. Hosted by local rapper Joe Buck and the Captain himself, the semi-formal event features the acclaimed DJ Pump, Hedspin and Jr. Flo of Team Canada, among others.

Get there early for the red-carpet arrival with fire breathers, dancers and photographers.

Eat, Laugh, Dance and Stay

Westin Halifax, Dinner, 7 p.m.; Dance until 1 a.m.

Tickets: \$55 to \$200.

The hotel is offering a number of New Year's Eve events, beginning with a prime-rib dinner at 6 p.m., followed by a show at Yuk

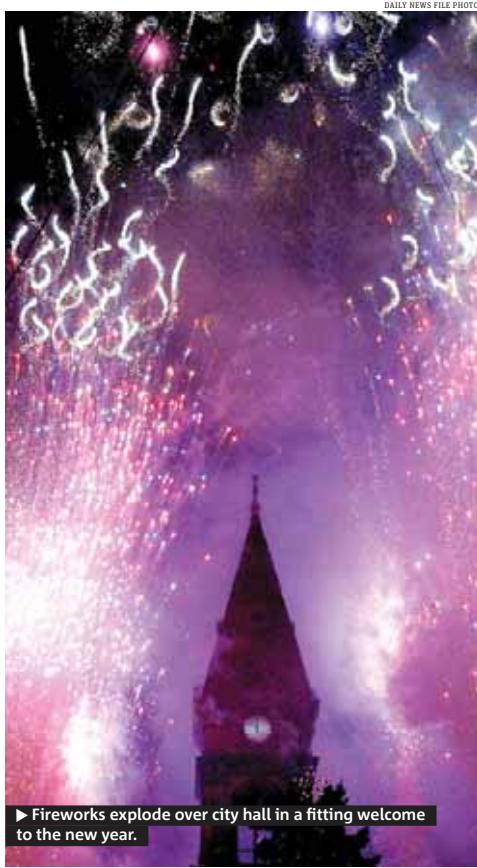
Yuk's Comedy Club at 9:30 p.m. with funnyman Michael Gelbart, and continuing on with champagne and dancing to ring in the new year.

BT New Year's Eve Halifax Grand Parade

Starts at 9:30 p.m., live to air at 10 p.m. Free.

Grab a Thermos, mittens and toque and join Breakfast Television personalities for the 17th annual New Year's Eve at Grand Parade.

Highlights include appearances by Gordie Sampson, Jimmy Rankin, Matt Anderson and the Standfields. The event will also pay tribute to the 2011 Halifax Canada Winter Games.



Education review planned

The province will conduct a two-month review of the learning experience of Nova Scotia students, education minister Marilyn More announced yesterday.

The review will provide advice to help the department and school boards improve the learning experience and outcomes for students.

The report will address the best use of human resources, teaching and assessment practices and improving school-family relationships. ● **ALY THOMSON**

Two men face drug charges

Two men are facing drugs and weapons charges after a traffic stop on Wednesday night.

Police stopped a vehicle just after 8 p.m. in the area of Leiblin Drive and Old Sambro Road. They found marijuana, cash and a canister of bear repellent.

Justin Pelley, 20, of Halifax and Christopher Dechamp, 22, of Ketch Harbour face multiple charges. ● **JENNIFER TAPLIN**

 **wicker emporium**

BOXING DAY Sale

40% OFF
REGULAR PRICE

All Solid Wood Furniture

All Christmas décor & other selected items

70% OFF
REGULAR PRICE

metronews.ca

10% DND DISCOUNT (also available to seniors)

Michael's Bar and Grill

• Sam Moon •
(Fridays 5-8pm)

• Live Blues •
(Sundays 4-8pm)

• Wing Night •
(Daily 4-10pm)

• All You Can Eat Brunch \$9.99 •
(Saturday And Sunday)

6100 Young St, Halifax
tel 902.454.6600

Delicious Homestyle Meals
www.barandgrill.ca

No appeal in twin sex assault case

► Court agrees woman did not consent to sex with boyfriend's identical twin brother

A sexual assault case in which the victim thought she was having sex with a man's identical twin brother will not be heard by Canada's highest court.

The Supreme Court of Canada has denied the man, who cannot be named, leave to appeal his conviction.

After a party one night in September 2006 the woman, who had consumed most of a bottle of wine, went to sleep in the bed of a man with whom she had a consensual sexual relationship.

Appeals

The man appealed his sex assault conviction, saying the trial judge was wrong in finding the mistaken identity meant the woman didn't consent to sex.

► Appeal declined The Court of Appeal for Ontario upheld his conviction earlier this year and yesterday the Supreme Court of Canada declined to hear his appeal of that decision.

Later, she awoke to someone having sex with

her and assumed it was the man with whom she had a relationship.

She called out the man's name several times and when he said nothing throughout the act she turned on the light, only to discover it was the man's twin brother.

In the Ontario Appeal Court decision in June, the panel of judges wrote that the woman did not agree to sexual intercourse with anyone other than the man with whom she had a relationship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



BOGDAN STAMATIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parliament interrupted

Adrian Sobaru throws himself from a balcony in Romania's parliament yesterday, just as the prime minister began to speak before a no-confidence vote. Sobaru suffered fractures to his face, and other non-life-threatening injuries, according to a hospital official. As emergency workers took him out on a stretcher, he shouted "Freedom!"

Supreme Court will hear music previews case

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case on whether previews of music downloaded from the Internet should be subject to royalties. The Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada is suing Bell Canada, Rogers and other communications companies over copyright infringement. After losing the rights to royalties in 2007, the society took its case to the Federal Court of Appeal, which refused to hear it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

30

In October 2007, the Copyright Board of Canada ruled that 30-second previews downloaded from the Internet don't infringe copyright and aren't subject to royalties.

Shopping just got serious.

Boxing Week Sale

Starts December 27 • 8am-9pm

When the deals get serious, the serious get shopping. And with savings up to 70% at over 160 stores and services, it's a great time to get the most from your Mic Mac Mall MasterCard® Gift Cards!

MIC MAC MALL

Are your final wishes on this list?

New Years Resolutions

- Spend time with kids
- Exercise more
- Pre plan my funeral
- Update my will.

There has never been a better time to pre-arrange your funeral

- Save **HST** when you pre-arrange your funeral by December 31, 2010
- 60 months **interest free** payment plan
 - No down payment



J.A. Snow Funeral Home 339 Lacewood Dr | 455-0531
 A.L. Mattatall Funeral Home 217 Portland St | 461-0700
 Cruikshank's Halifax Funeral Home 2666 Windsor St | 423-7295

HP recommends Windows® 7 Professional.



Faster.
Smarter.

DECK THE HALLS AND SHAKE THE WALLS



HP ENVY 17

GET THE MOST MIND-BLOWING SOUND FROM ONE
OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST LAPTOPS FEATURING THE
SMART INTEL® CORE™ i5 PROCESSOR.

HP.CA/MUSIC



The 'lost and forgotten' Canadians

► Canada behind Britain, France, and the U.S. in extricating citizens from foreign prisons: Lawyers

The tales of Canadians trapped in European airports made headlines this week. But hundreds of forgotten Canadians are trapped abroad for far longer, and some may never go home again.

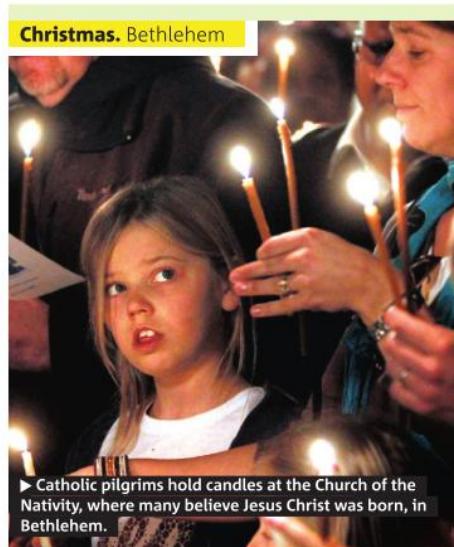
They are people jailed, often through no fault of their own, or kept as virtual prisoners by laws not recognized by Ottawa. Most have families also held prisoner by fear for their loved ones.

Ottawa says it is well aware of cases of unjust imprisonment and is working behind the scenes to remedy them. But officials say

that there are limits to what diplomacy can do and that the majority of the 1,000 or so Canadians behind bars in other countries were breaking those countries' laws.

Critics are not convinced. "Unless these matters are raised with significant pressure they tend to drop out," says Dan McTeague, Liberal consular affairs critic. "Some of them are made more difficult by an incoherent Conservative ideology that hinders effective advocacy by the government in helping the lost and forgotten."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES



► Catholic pilgrims hold candles at the Church of the Nativity, where many believe Jesus Christ was born, in Bethlehem.

TARA TODRAS-WHITEHILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Room at the inn tonight?

So far this year, 1.4 million tourists have visited the traditional birthplace of Jesus and 90,000 are expected during the Christmas season, according to Israeli government figures.

Norwegian paper says it has full cache of cables

A Norwegian newspaper says it has obtained the entire trove of 250,000 uncensored U.S. diplomatic documents that WikiLeaks has been distributing.

The announcement appears to make Aftenposten the first media organization outside WikiLeaks' five partners to obtain the material — a development sure to heighten U.S. fears the release of some uncensored diplomatic cables could en-

danger informants' lives.

So far WikiLeaks has released about 1,900 of the more than 250,000 documents it claims to possess, many of them containing critical or embarrassing U.S. assessments of foreign countries. They are also being published by the New York Times, France's Le Monde, Britain's Guardian newspaper and the German magazine Der Spiegel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dublin airport snowed in

15 An overnight storm left most of Denmark blanketed in up to 15 centimetres of snow.

airport.

Dublin suspended flights because heavy snow made the runway unsafe. Officials said the airport might reopen at 1:30 p.m. if conditions permit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teen suspect rescued from Niagara Falls gorge

Police say a teenager had to be rescued from the Niagara Gorge after officers chased two suspects in the vandalism of a Maid of the Mist tour boat.

Niagara Parks police say two males were reported as trespassing in the area where the famous tour boats were docked at about 4 a.m. yesterday morning.

Police say they quickly caught up with an 18-year-old suspect, but a 17-year-

old made a run for it, heading downriver toward the Rainbow Bridge.

Niagara Parks police Const. John Gayder says the teen had no way out of the gorge.

Gayder's rescue team rappelled down the steep, icy slope and then used the fire department's ladder truck to pull the teen out in a harness and handcuffs.

The two suspects were charged with mischief



► The Maid of the Mist as seen from the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls, Ont.

over \$5,000 and break and enter.

"The way he was heading there, there's really no exit from the gorge," Gayder said. "He would have exhausted himself before he was able to get to a place where he could walk out."

Once rescued, the 17-year-old was treated in hospital for onset hypothermia before being released to police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Origin

The first Maid of the Mist was launched in 1846 as a ferry service between the Canadian and American sides.

► Change With the opening of the suspension bridge, the ferry service lost business, and by 1854 it became a tourist attraction with a more luxurious boat.

Volunteers make us dance all year round!

Thanks to our Board of Directors, Campaign Management Team, Community Resources Committee, Funding Panels, Neighbourhood Council, Audit Committee, Tomorrow Fund Trustees, Major Gifts Committee, Youth Grant Selection Committee, Women United for Community and 211 Nova Scotia.

Louise Abraham Pace
Bonnie Anderson
Dorothy Barnard
Andrew Bateman
Robert Batherson
Mike Beattie
Frank Beazley
Glen Blake
Chris Bryant
Lea Bryden
Mike Burgess
Lynn Casey
Laura Charlton
Robert Chisholm
Andrea Cochran
Murray Coolican
Karyn Cooling

Jennifer Cooper
Jean Crofts
Chris Crowell
Chris Daly
Stephen Dempsey
Paul DeWolfe
Glen Dexter
Peter Doig
Paul Dunphy
Peter Fardy
Carrie Forbes
Rene Gallant
Rick Garant
Tim Gillis
Quesha Glasgow
Dale Godsoe
Glenn Grabove
Brian Gray

Sarah Grimmer
Doug Hall
Chuck Hartlen
Earle Hickey
Mark Hobbs
Allan Horsburgh
Charlie Hume
Maureen Jeffries
Joan Jessome
Gail Keeping
Chris Keevil
Joanne Keigan
Grace Kennedy
Paul Kent
Samantha Kent

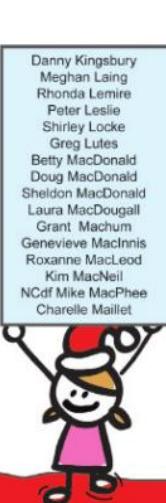


www.unitedwayhalifax.ca

Danny Kingsbury
Meghan Laing
Rhonda Lemire
Peter Leslie
Shirley Locke
Greg Lutes
Betty MacDonald
Doug MacDonald
Sheldon MacDonald
Laura MacDougall
Grant MacLachum
Genevieve MacInnis
Roxanne MacLeod
Kim MacNeil
NCdf Mike MacPhee
Charelle Maillet

Mary Martin
Joe McEvoy
Kris McNeil
Wayne Mercer
Mary Morrissey
Bill Mosher
Susan Nasser
David O'Neill
Carole Olsen
Tracy Pack
Cdr Arlanda Paddock
Diane Pike
CJ Purdy
Safia Rahemtulla
Lemeia Reddick
Claire Richardson
Donna Rubenstein

Sharon Rutland
Capt(N) Brian Santarpia
Kevin Shoebridge
Ward Skinner
Belinda Smith
Rustum Southwell
Candace Stevenson
Kevin Stoddart
Jennifer Thompson
Kim Thomson
Dr. Tom Traves
Julie-Ann Vincent
Clare Waque
Kit Waters
Christa Webber
David Wilson
Carol Young



Ad space donated by:

metronews



► This photo shows the commemorative £5 Alderney coin to mark Prince William and Kate Middleton's engagement

Royal coins: An inconvenient truth

► Commemorative coins derided for likeness of royal couple ► William looks more like Al Gore, say critics

Britain's Royal Mint on Thursday released a commemorative coin featuring portraits of Prince William and his bride-to-be, but critics said the results were far from lifelike.

Images of the couple on the memento bear little resemblance to either the prince or his 28-year-old betrothed. Middleton appears plump in the face and lips and has bags un-

der her eyes, while some critics suggested William looks more like former U.S. vice-president Al Gore.

Available in silver or gold, the five-pound (\$7.75 Cdn) coin — which costs 9.99 pounds (\$15.50) to buy — marks the April 29 wedding of the second-in-line to the British throne.

"This coin is of historical importance, to get it so wrong seems ridiculous,"

Ingrid Seward of Majesty magazine told Britain's Sky News.

The Royal Mint said the coin was designed by its in-house engraving team and both the Queen and Prince William had given their consent to the design. Staff had used photos of the couple at a sporting event to produce the images, it said in a statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG DISTANCE
COMWAVE IS KNOCKING OUT THE COMPETITION
WITH NEW LOWER RATES!



Canada Unlimited

Calling to Canada even
from your cell phone!

\$5 / Month

Call Over 30 Countries



1.9
¢ / MIN

**Make Long Distance and
OverSeas Calls From your
Home or Cell Phone**
At our **GUARANTEED LOWEST RATES!**

Cuba 89.9 **India 2.9** **Pakistan 5.9** **Philippines 11.9**



Afghanistan 24.9 ¢ Jamaica 8.9 ¢ Saudi Arabia 9.9 ¢

Bangladesh 3.9 ¢ Jordan 9.9 ¢ Sri Lanka 9.9 ¢

Ecuador 9.9 ¢ Lebanon 9.9 ¢ Trinidad 4.9 ¢

El Salvador 9.9 ¢ Libya 24.9 ¢ U.A.E 14.9 ¢

Guyana 24.9 ¢ Nepal 7.9 ¢ Romania 2.9 ¢ Vietnam 4.9 ¢

If the country you call is not on this list or our advertised rates are higher than what you are currently paying... that's no problem. Call today and we'll beat what you're paying with your current provider... GUARANTEED!

1-866-519-8090



www.comwave.ca

While Comwave strives for accuracy in our advertising, Comwave reserves the right to correct any error in pricing or information at any time. Rate guarantee is based on competitor's lowest advertised rate for like services. Comwave will not rate match against charity or internet services, bundled minute plans or prepaid calling cards due to their inaccurate billing or fees. The Comwave Call over 30 Countries for 1.9 cents does not include calls to overseas mobile phones and it has a monthly fee of \$1.95. Calls to Argentina on this bundle are to Buenos Aires. Calls to Brazil on this bundle are to Rio De Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Calls to Mexico on this bundle are to Mexico City and Monterrey. Calls to Russia on this bundle are to Moscow and St. Petersburg. Calls to Overseas Mobile Phones may be billed at a higher rate. All Unlimited Plans do not include calls to the Yukon, Nunavut, N.W.T., Alaska and Hawaii. Terms and conditions apply, see www.comwave.ca for details

HQ HEADQUARTERS
Hair Restoration Clinic

**We CAN
help you**

902.420.1800

**998 Parkland Drive
Suite 201, Halifax**

Happy New Hair!

Overheated housing sector set to cool in '11

► 'We anticipate a fairly lacklustre year for residential housing, with modestly higher sales volumes': Expert

Canada's housing market was one of the best performers — and one of the most volatile — among advanced countries in 2010, but appears poised for a lacklustre turn next year, Scotia Economics says.

This year, Canada was among six of 12 countries studied that saw home prices increase, according to the bank's year-end Globe Real Estate Trends report issued Thursday. Other countries that saw price advances included Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Sweden and Switzerland.

Prices in the U.S. and Germany were flat, and those in Ireland, Italy,

Housing stalls

► An International Monetary Fund report said Canada's overheated housing market combined with record levels of consumer debt are risks that could curtail future economic growth. It said Canada's housing sector has reached its peak and may be due for a correction, although a collapse is unlikely.

► The Canadian Real Estate Association has projected a 4.9 per cent slide in sales this year and a nine per cent decline next year.

Japan and Spain fell. In Canada, an unusual

ly active winter and spring — prompted by pent-up demand coming out of the recession, along with expectations of rising interest rates and higher taxes being introduced in two provinces — gave way to an unusually soft summer.

Sales returned to a more typical, sustainable level in the fall.

Adrienne Warren, senior economist at Scotia Economics, predicts a more subdued Canadian market in 2011 as interest rates remain near historic lows, but in a climate of global economic uncertainty.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Last minute. Flurry



► Maura Webster of Marlborough, Mass., tries to catch a snowflake on her tongue after Christmas shopping with her daughter Emma, 4, at Shopper's World in Framingham, Mass.

BILL GREENE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bingeing on snow and shopping

In many parts of the world, the holiday shopping season has been shortened by nasty weather that clogged traffic and delayed deliveries. For scores of retailers, hopes of rescuing the retail season rest on last-minute shoppers.

Skype back after outage

OFFLINE. Internet calling and messaging service Skype SA mostly recovered Thursday from an outage caused by an undisclosed glitch, but problems lingered for its worldwide user base.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas
-9.5 (13,371.20)	+ 0.52¢ (99.12¢ US)	+ 1.03¢ US (\$91.51 US)	\$4,083 (- 6.9¢) Gold contracts \$1,380.50 (- \$6.90)

Pipeline unlikely until 2035: Analysts

as making a line uneconomical during that time-frame. The report represents what agency analyst Joe Benneche calls its "best guess at what a likely outcome is."

Two pipeline companies, Alberta, Canada-based TransCanada Corp. and Denali-The Alaska Gas Pipeline, are pursuing proposals to bring gas from Alaska's prodigious North Slope to North American or overseas markets by about 2020. Cost estimates for the various options have ranged from \$20 billion to \$41 billion for a longer line that would extend into Canada.

The study looks at domestic energy markets through 2035 and cites higher construction costs and lower natural gas well-head prices, in 2009 terms.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAUTIOUS OUTLOOK

Economic growth tempered by debt and high dollar

The Canadian economy has begun growing again, advancing by a modest 0.2 per cent in October after setbacks in two of the previous three months.

But the less than anticipated advance, while welcome after September's one-tenth of a point contraction, still leaves the Canadian economy sputtering as the year draws to a close.

"The direction is right, but this tracks below the Bank of Canada's expectations," said Derek Holt of Scotiabank.

Even at that, the headline flattered the details, he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NOTICE: CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEAR'S DAY Garbage/Organics/Recyclables Collection & Processing Services

Residents of Halifax Regional Municipality are advised that there will be **no change** in garbage, organics or recyclables collection services during the Christmas and New Year holiday season. Regular municipal collection services (garbage, organics or recyclables) scheduled on **Friday, December 24th, Monday, December 27th, Friday, December 31st and Monday, January 3rd** will occur as usual.

Residents are reminded that collection services can begin as early as 7:00 a.m. To ensure collection, residents may place materials curbside the evening prior to collection day.

Otter Lake Facility Closed

Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25th
Boxing Day, Sunday, Dec. 26th
New Year's Day, Saturday, Jan. 1st
Sunday, Jan. 2nd

Otter Lake Facility Open

Dec. 24th & 31st - 7 am to 6 pm
Dec. 27th & Jan. 3rd - 7 am to 7 pm

HRM Recycling Plant Closed

Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25th
New Year's Day, Saturday, Jan. 1st

HRM Recycling Plant Open

Dec. 24th & Dec. 27th - 7:30 am to 6:00 pm
Dec. 31st & Jan. 3rd - 7:30 am to 6:00 pm

The HRM's residential Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot will be **Closed Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th and New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1st**, but will be **Open on Saturday, January 8th, 2011** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

After the Holidays...

- Natural Christmas trees: picked up on your organics collection week; must be free of plastic, tinsel, ornaments, metal rings, nails, stands and plastic tree bags
- Compost or mulch your greenery (boughs, trees, etc.)
- Wreaths with metal wire frame or plastic cord go in your garbage bag
- Recycle paper gift wrap free of ribbons, bows and ornaments; place in a grocery bag
- Non-paper gift wrap and foil wrap: place in your garbage bag
- Corrugated cardboard: tie and bundle for recycling
- Boxboard (shoe and cereal type boxes): place in your green cart
- Recycling/re-use tips: save gift wrap, bows, ribbons, cards, etc...for use next year; give old toys and clothing to a charitable organization

Thank you and have a safe and happy holiday season.
Your 2011 Collection Schedules are included inside your HRM Citizen Guide to Municipal Services. For more information on HRM's composting and recycling programs, check your 2010 or 2011 collection schedule, visit our website at www.halifax.ca/recycle or call 490-4000.

Let's Waste Less
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

R333-6912

NEED MONEY?

- ✓ No credit checks
- ✓ Fast approvals

499-5629

And get cash now!!
www.mynextpay.com



BOXING WEEK

DECEMBER 27-31, 2010

PLUS... MANY ITEMS
REDUCED UP TO
75% OFF

Stockholm Black
2 Piece Sectional
Includes sofa Sectional & Corner Chair
ASHLEY DIRECT PRICE

\$1099.98

5 Piece Living Room
Includes 2 Piece Sectional, Chair & a Half Ottoman
ASHLEY DIRECT PRICE
\$1839.95



THE MORE YOU BUY THE MORE YOU SAVE

spend \$1000, get

5% OFF

your entire purchase

spend \$1500, get

10% OFF

your entire purchase

spend \$2000 or more, get

15% OFF

your entire purchase

12 MONTHS NO PAYMENTS*

up to

75% OFF

selected floor models & clearance items

up to

75% OFF

selected rugs, lamps & home accessories

Sealy Austrell Queen Mattress

Was \$999

Now \$799
SAVE \$200

Inglis

Inglis Washer/Dryer
Pair Only

\$549



165 Chain Lake Dr
(Bayers Lake)
Halifax, NS

902.450.7007
Monday-Friday: 9am-9pm
Saturday: 9am-6pm
Sunday: 11-5pm



*An approved credit, minimum purchase of \$1000. A \$21 annual membership fee may be charged to your account subject to certain conditions. Financing provided by Differential Credit, Inc. and is subject to all the terms and conditions in your particular agreement and the credit promotional plan disclosure statement (collectively the "Account Agreement"). Finance Charges will accrue on the purchase from the beginning of the credit promotional period of 12 months, but no minimum payments will be due during the credit promotional period. However, if one pays the purchase price in full by the expiration date of the credit promotional period, all of the accrued Finance Charges will be waived and no Finance Charges will be assessed. Otherwise, all of the accrued Finance Charges will be assessed. The minimum is equal to 1/12th of the credit promotional plan (or purchases that are not part of the credit promotional plan), the standard APR of 29.99% and the terms of the regular credit plan will apply to all outstanding balance owing. This offer is valid as of and including Jan. 31, 2011, cannot be used for previous purchases and cannot be combined with any other offers, promotions or special incentive programs. Certain terms and conditions apply. See store and Account Agreement for further information. Payment purchase method. Certain offers exclude floor models or clearance items, sales tax, finance protection plan, warranty, delivery or service charge. SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. Although every precaution is taken, errors in price and/or specification may occur at print. We reserve the right to correct any such errors. ©2010 Ashley HomeStores, Inc. Expires 1/31/2011.



► Pamela Callow

CONTRIBUTED

5 MINUTES WITH: EW

Critically acclaimed Halifax author Pamela Callow's latest novel, *Indefensible*, will be hitting bookstore shelves Dec. 28. The book, a follow-up to her debut novel, *Damaged*, is the second in her Kate Lange thriller series set in Halifax. Drawing on her experience working in blue-chip corporate environments, Callow's series features Lange, a struggling 30-something lawyer whose career-making case turns deadly as she uncovers a scam that puts her in the path of a demented killer. In light of her latest release, Callow told Metro about herself and her novel.

Has growing up in Nova Scotia influenced your writing? Oh yeah, for sure ... there's some different types of influences. I was educated here. So my legal background and my legal training have definitely influenced my writing. I felt that as a setting for my series, I kind of wanted to put Halifax on the map because I thought it was a pretty neat city. It's a great city to set a thriller in.

What is it about crime that fascinates you? I've always been fascinated by crime, even as a kid. I think it's because I'm very rule- and law-abiding

"I kind of wanted to put Halifax on the map because I thought it was a pretty neat city."

(laughs). I think it's like you let your subconscious explore the other side. In terms of my training, after I was admitted to the (Nova Scotia) bar, I did a master's in public administration and my specialty was public policy. I have to say, I'm fascinated by the values that underpin our society ...

but then when you put an individual in those scenarios, how does it work?

How much of Pamela Callow is in Kate Lange?

Kate's not me. Her past life is not mine at all ... what I will say is a lot of the experiences that Kate has working in her law firm are experiences that I have had to some degree, or personalities that I've encountered. Not actual people, because I never put real people in my books, but those kinds of scenarios ... But Kate's got some of my life experience in her, I would say.

● ALY THOMSON

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



After
metro

Up there Down Under

Worth mentioning

Mysterious lights in the sky and even a flying saucer are among the reported UFO sightings detailed in classified documents released by New Zealand's military this week.

The thousands of documents cover more than 50 years of New Zealanders' reports of encounters with unidentified flying objects.

Most files suggest natural explanations for the sightings, such as meteors and reflections off boat lights.

Among the reports was one from a man who wrote a letter in 1955 to

Phone home



inform authorities he had seen flying saucers, even witnessing one take off.

The files also cover the country's best-known UFO mystery in 1978 in the southern island town of Kaikoura. A cargo plane reported strange lights following it and air traffic controllers detected radar blips they could not explain.

The documents showed the government carefully took note of such reports, even if some citizens received only a polite thanks for their theories.

New Zealand's Defence Force released the files Wednesday under a freedom-of-information request.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's your wish for 2011?

Email
halifaxletters
@metroneWS.ca
Twitter
@metrohalifax

Metro has the right to edit letters and submissions.



METRO HALIFAX • 3260 Barrington St., Unit 102, Halifax NS, B3K 0B5 • T: 902-444-4444 • Fax: 902-422-5610
Advertising: 902-421-5824 • halifax_advertising@metroneWS.ca • halifax_distribution@metroneWS.ca
Publisher Greg Lutes, Managing Editor Philip Croucher, Sales Manager Dianne Curran, Distribution Manager April Doucette
METRO CANADA: Group Publisher Bill McDonald, Editor-in-Chief Charlotte Empey, National Deputy Editor Fernando Carneiro, Associate Managing Editor Tarin Elbert, Scene/Life Editor Dean Lisk, Asst Managing Editor Amber Shortt, Art Director Laila Hakim, Nat'l Sales Director Peter Bartrem, Interactive/Marketing Director Jodi Brown

Metro Minute with last-minute gifts

If you're a last-minute shopper, there's no tomorrow for you.

With today being Christmas Eve, the hours are ticking to finish your Christmas shopping, meaning malls and stores throughout HRM will be a mob scene for last-minute buyers.

HRM's two biggest shopping centres — Mic Mac

Mall and Halifax Shopping Centre — are open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., along with all stores in Dartmouth Crossing and at Sunnyside Mall.

But to be completely sure, it's best to call any stores beforehand to find out when the doors on this year's holiday shopping season will be closed for the night. ● METRO

Three days to play

WHAT'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?



Daniel Murray

HALIFAX

I don't really have one but I'd like to volunteer more, maybe for the SPCA.



Jean Camus

HALIFAX

To give up junk food.

From superheroes to animated comedy to Oscar candidates, there are lots of great movie options in the first few months of 2011. Oh, and don't forget Justin Bieber ... in 3-D

Hollywood offers plenty of winter fun

STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Winter may be upon us but at least there's warmth in the cinematic fire that's stirring in 2011. With the new year kicking off everything from dramatic festival favourites (*Biutiful*, 02/11) to a Roman epic adventure (*The Eagle*, 02/11), multiplexes will be warming up in 2011. Here's Metro's look at the most promising movies to hibernate with through the chilly season:

Other notable winter titles:

- Season of the Witch (01/07)
- The Dilemma (01/14)
- Another Year (01/14)
- The Company Men (01/21)
- Casino Jack (01/28)
- The Rite (01/28)
- The Mechanic (01/28)
- Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son (02/18)
- The Adjustment Bureau (03/04)
- The Dark Fields (03/18)

Note: All release dates are subject to change and might be different in each market.



► *The Green Hornet* opens Jan. 14.

February

If you haven't seen enough of Stratford's biggest pop star yet, you can catch *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never* (02/11) in 3-D. Also in the third-dimension: the animated garden gnome comedy *Gnomeo and Juliet* (02/11) and *Drive Angry* (02/25) featuring Nicolas Cage as a very vengeful father.

Meanwhile, Adam Sandler convinces Jennifer Aniston to help him score in *Just Go*

With It (02/11), while bored hubby Owen Wilson gets a *Hall Pass* (02/25) from his wife to have an affair.

But February is defined mostly by suspense, with films such as the college-themed horror flick *The Roommate* (02/04), sci-fi blockbuster *I Am Number Four* (02/18), Liam Neeson's mistaken-identity thriller *Unknown* (02/18) and the James Cameron-produced underwater nail-biter *Sanctum* (02/04).



► *Sucker Punch* opens March 25.

January

It all begins with Gwyneth Paltrow crooning away as a washed-up western singer in the redemptive drama *Country Strong* (01/07) and filmmaker Sofia Coppola (*Lost in Translation*) observing the lonelier side of being an A-list celebrity in *Somewhere* (01/07).

However, the action heats up when Seth Rogen debuts his masked crimefighter *The Green Hornet* (01/14) in a 3-D adaptation of the 1960s TV show. If critical darlings are your thing, Michelle Williams

and Ryan Gosling quarrel as volatile lovers in *Blue Valentine* (01/07), while *Incendies* (01/21) Canada's submission to the Oscars, is a time-shifting drama that's racking up acclaim just in time for its release.

And where would January be without a fluffy rom-com? Worry not: Ashton Kutcher and Natalie Portman are platonic friends trying to maintain an aloof sexual arrangement in *No Strings Attached* (01/21). Didn't *Seinfeld* test this premise 20 years ago?



► Liam Neeson stars in *Unknown*, which opens Feb. 18.

March

Johnny Depp kicks off the month voicing a gunslinging chameleon in the quirky animated comedy *Rango* (03/04), while other (partly) animated adventures offer friendly alien encounters in *Mars Needs Moms* (03/11) and *Paul* (03/18).

Serious literature gets the big-screen treatment with another cinematic makeover of Charlotte Brontë's classic *Jane Eyre* (03/11) and novelist Michael Connelly's

adaptation of *The Lincoln Lawyer* (03/18). Meanwhile, Amanda Seyfried stars as the amped-up fairytale heroine *Red Riding Hood* (03/11).

Expect even more fantastical treats such as *Beastly* (03/18), a modern take on *Beauty and the Beast*, the dystopian thriller *Battle: Los Angeles* (03/11) and Watchmen-director Zack Snyder's multi-dimensional action-flick *Sucker Punch* (03/25) all aiming to ignite the springtime.



News in brief



Call her the guardian angel of Jamie Foxx's music career. The Oscar and Grammy winner said Tuesday his 16-year-old daughter, Corinne, gave him the best advice when he began recording music.

"When I first started, I was doing this little slow music, you know, just R&B ... and my daughter walked in and said, 'What you doing?' I said, 'I'm working on the album.' She said, 'I hope you don't put that on there because you're going to put everybody to sleep,'" Foxx said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



After five-year wait, *Gran Turismo 5* delivers the best (and worst) in video-game racing.

THE #1 FAMILY COMEDY IN CANADA!

YOGI BEAR

Now Playing in Theatres and **realD 3D**

Check Theatre Directory or www.yogibearmovie.ca for Locations and Showtimes

Follow us on Facebook for News, Contests, Upcoming Releases, and MORE!

Visit www.facebook.com/WarnerBros.PicturesCanada



www.yogibear.com

"Yogi Bear" and all related indicia are trademarks and/or copyright of Hanna-Barbera Productions

G



WARNER BROS. PICTURES
©2010 Warner Bros. Inc. All Rights Reserved

NOT YOUR REGULAR CHRISTMAS

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE

SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



These days the malls are festooned with Christmas decorations by October, and Starbucks has its yuletide mugs out before the leaves have even turned. Last year a new version of *A Christmas Carol* opened in early November, and on TV a Christmas Story played for 24 solid hours on Dec. 25. It's easy to get Christmased-out long before the big day rolls around. There's too much tinsel, too many in-your-face Santas, but for movie fans it's possible to get a taste of the holidays without having to watch James Stewart contemplate ending it all.

Here are some Christmas movies for people who don't like Christmas movies:

Creepy Christmas

There are dozens of Christmas horror films with names like *Silent Night, Deadly Night*, but they're still too Christmasy for this list. I'm thinking more along the lines of *American Psycho*: who can forget Wall Street serial killer Patrick Bateman (Christian Bale) wearing reindeer antlers? Or, for that matter, the Christmas Eve viral outbreak that decimates the planet in *I Am Legend*.

Noel Noir

Lots of action/crime movies use Christmas as a setting, so much so that *Die Hard* and its sequel, both set on Christmas Eve, are regularly played as

part of TV Christmas marathons. Others you may have forgotten are *Lethal Weapon* (Jingle Bell Rock plays during the opening credits), *Goodfellas* (The Ronettes sing Frosty the Snowman during a Christmas party, and later Henry Hill (Ray Liotta) gives his wife a wad of bills as a Christmas present) and *L.A. Confidential*, which opens on "Bloody" Christmas, 1951, when dozens of policemen beat seven incarcerated Latino men.

You Sleigh Me

Looking for holiday laughs? According to *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life*, every day in Heaven is Christmastime, complete with dancers dressed as sexy Santas. In *Trading Places* we first see Dan Aykroyd drunk and decked out as Santa on a bus eating crusted food stuck in his beard. Even funnier is Ferdinand the duck's alarming exclamation "Christmas means carnage!" in the movie *Babe*.

Mistletoe Melodrama

Let's face it, Christmas brings a gamut of emotions, not just love and goodwill, and that's precisely why yuletide scenes are so effective in dramas. Far From Heaven, the Todd Haynes film about family secrets, uses a drunken Christmas party to unveil some hard truths. And, of course, without the Christmas scene in *Citizen Kane* there would be no *Rosebud* mystery.

Movie review See it twice

See it now | Worth watching

| Yawn | Don't bother



Gulliver's Travels

Genre: Comedy
Director: Rob Letterman
Stars: Jack Black, Jason Segel, Amanda Peet

Jack Black's latest film might be called *Gulliver's Travels*, but the only things it shares with Jonathan Swift's masterful satire is the title, the land of little people named Lilliput and a scene in which Gulliver empties his bladder to put out a fire.

Unless there's a giant robot battle not available in most editions of the novel, it has to be assumed that no one involved with this production bothered to read it. Instead they decided it would be a good idea

to have a giant Jack Black try to teach an 18th-century society about *Star Wars*. Somehow, against all odds, the final movie turned out to be even worse than that description sounds.

The once entertaining Black hasn't found a project suited to his skills since *School Of Rock*, and it's painful to watch him embarrass himself as a slacker mail clerk who is transported to Lilliput through the Bermuda Triangle (no exaggeration, that's what happens). This abysmal movie is so ill conceived that it's hard to imagine even young children being forgiving enough to find it entertaining.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH PART 1 OF THE EPIC FINALE!

"THE CINEMATIC EPIC THAT DEFIES CONVENTION AND DEFINES A GENERATION."

Jake Hamilton, FOX-TV

"★★★★★ ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF THE YEAR!"

Shawn Edwards, FOX-TV

"TRULY AWESOME!"

Bonnie Lauter, TRIBUNE CANADA

"GRADE-A STORYTELLING AT ITS BEST."

THE BAR HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN RAISED IN THE WORLD OF 'HARRY POTTER'"

Ben Lyons, EW



Follow us on Facebook for News, Contests, Upcoming Releases, and MORE! Visit www.facebook.com/WarnerBros.PicturesCanada

NOW PLAYING!

Check Theatre Directory or www.harrypotterandtheDeathlyHallowsMovie.ca for Locations and Showtimes

"THE HOLIDAY'S BIGGEST COMEDY."

Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW

JACK BLACK



STARTS TOMORROW!

Check directory or log onto www.empiretheatres.com, www.tribute.ca for locations and showtimes

The Dude vs. the Duke

► Jeff Bridges reunites with the Coen brothers, who directed him as The Dude in 1998's *The Big Lebowski*
 ► In *True Grit*, Bridges offers a new take on John Wayne's portrayal of boozy lawman Rooster Cogburn ► Are there traces of the Duke or the Dude in Bridges' performance? The directors and cast compare and contrast

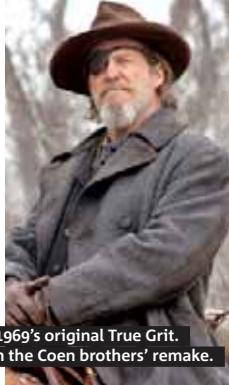
Joel Coen



I don't think there's any of the Duke there. ... It's only to the extent that you're talking about somebody who's playing the same instrument, which is his own personality and physicality. ... He's quite a bit older, but he's still Jeff Bridges, and Jeff Bridges did this other



► John Wayne, left, starred in 1969's original *True Grit*. Jeff Bridges takes on the role in the Coen brothers' remake.



Josh Brolin



There's no Duke in there — yeah, there is. (Brolin imitates the Duke's occasionally falsetto voice.) "Yeah, man. Hey, man. Yeah, man." ... The Dude has several keys, you

know, octaves ... Rooster, you know he's so dry, his voice is so low. It's like Nick Nolte. And once in a while, he'll go (Brolin makes a high-pitched hum). You know? And I go, there it is. There's Jeff. There's the Dude.

Hailee Steinfeld



I would say, if anything, more of the Duke than the Duke. ... I do have to say, it's in the

trailer, this one line — when Mattie says, "Can we depart this afternoon?" And he looks at her and says "We?" I think that's the biggest Duke moment.

Matt Damon



Jeff works out of a place of joy ... and you can feel it when you're with him, because he's genuinely joyful when he's working. I mean, there are things, like getting off the horse in the corn-dodger scene — where we're shooting the

cornbread — his dismount and the jacket flying over his head. All those things are little things that actually happened because Jeff was totally into it at the moment. I didn't see those as Duke-esque or Dude-esque. That just seemed like Jeff getting into the zone and having fun.

Ethan Coen



It's really not John Wayne. I think for everybody ... the movie was done pretty much without reference to the other movie. Although ... the one parallel was, on *Big Lebowski*, pretty much the only di-

recting we were called upon to do with Jeff is, Jeff would walk up to us before a scene and ask, "Did the Duke burn one on the way over here for this scene?" And similarly, on this, the question was, "How drunk am I in this scene?" **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Rolling Stone

PETER TRAVERS

"GREAT FILMMAKING. GREAT ACTING. GREAT MOVIE."

TIME
MARY POLS

"TRUE GRIT" IS A CLASSIC EXPERTLY REVISITED.

11 CRITICS' CHOICE MOVIE AWARDS
NOMINATIONS, INCLUDING
BEST PICTURE
JEFF BRIDGES BEST ACTOR HAILEE STEINFELD BEST ACTRESS JOEL & ETHAN COEN BEST DIRECTOR

TRUE GRIT



14+ VIOLENCE

TRUEGRITMOVIE.COM
© 2010 Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved.



NOW PLAYING

CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORY
FOR LOCATIONS AND SHOWTIMES

#1 MOVIE IN CANADA!

"A CINEMATIC SPECTACLE!"

METRO NEWS CANADA



IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D, realD 3D AND IMAX 3D

DISNEY.COM/TRON

TRON is a registered trademark of Disney Corporation. ©Disney

NOW PLAYING

For Theatres and Showtimes: Check Local Listings

7th heaven



MICHAEL

MUSIC

Michael Jackson is the King of Pop — still. Though he's not No. 1 on North American music charts, Jackson's album sold more than 3 million units worldwide. Jackson debuted at No. 1 in Germany, Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands. The album also made its way to the Top 5 in the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Belgium and Denmark.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAULY D

TV

MTV announced this week it signed a deal with Jersey Shore disc jockey Paul (DJ Pauly D) DeVecchio to star in his own spinoff based on footage filmed of the self-proclaimed "guido" in September.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

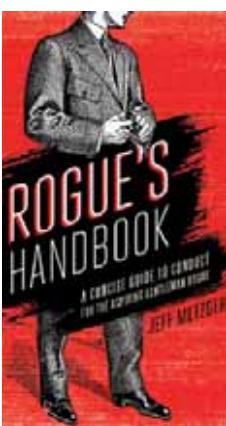


JUSTIN BIEBER

INTERNET

No one had more video views online in 2010 than pop star Justin Bieber. Music video website Vevo has named the 10 most-viewed clips of the year and Bieber took the top spot and two other positions on the list. Baby, with Ludacris, came in first. It was viewed more than 416 million times.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



THE ROGUE'S HANDBOOK

BOOKS

Looking for that last-minute holiday gift for the man in your life?

The Rogue's Handbook is a concise guide on how to cut some dash for the aspiring gentleman rogue.

The humorous book includes a look at rogues from the past and pop culture, and some essential rogue phrases.

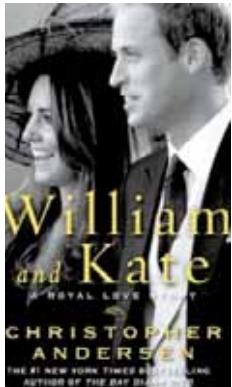
THE METRO

WILLIAM AND KATE

ROYALTY

They've been engaged for less than a month but William and Kate: A Royal Love Story is now on bookshelves. The tome is written by Christopher Andersen, who also wrote The Day Diana Died.

THE METRO



FANTASTIC FOUR

COMICS

Looks like the Fantastic Four will soon be the Terrific Three. Marvel is trimming its flagship Fantastic Four to a mere trio in January as death comes calling on comics' first family. But whom will it be? Mr. Fantastic, the Invisible Woman, Human Torch or The Thing? Readers will find out for themselves when Fantastic Four No. 587 is released next month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRISTMAS

CULTURE

Remember when you didn't get what you wanted for Christmas? Well, take a look at this YouTube video of a young kid who is given books by his parents. The reaction is hilarious — if not a little over-the-top. youtube.com/watch?v=O3ceZqtDg34

THE METRO

Mix of Six

Musical

Wizard of Oz

When: Through Jan. 9

Where: Neptune Theatre's Fountain Hall

Neptune Theatre is following the yellow brick road for its holiday blowout with the 1939 musical version of this popular story for all ages. For tickets and showtimes, visit neptunetheatre.com.

Skating

Holiday Skates

When: Dec. 27-28

Where: Canada Games Skating Oval, North Common

A great idea for the holidays is donning the blades and skating outdoors on the new oval in the heart of the city. The skates take place from 1 to 3 p.m., weather permitting, so visit skatethrm.ca for full details and updates.

Hockey

Halifax Mooseheads

When: Thurs., Dec. 30, 7 p.m.

Where: Halifax Metro Centre

Fundraiser

Holiday Gathering with Bruce Gauthro

When: Mon., Dec. 27, 8 p.m.

Where: Schooner Showroom, Casino Nova Scotia

The Herd is enjoying a holiday break after winning its last three games. When it returns to home ice, waiting will be its provincial rival, the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles. Adult tickets are \$15.75.

Exhibit

Cosmomania

When: Through Dec. 31

Where: Discover Centre

This exhibition looks back at the past 50 years of space exploration, and what is to come in the next 50. Highlights include explorations of the first human to travel to outer space, and the first man to walk on the moon. Visit thediscovercentre.ca for full details.

Exhibit

LEGO: City by the Sea

When: Through Jan. 2

Where: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

It's a LEGO world at this holiday show, with everything from a city landscape, including a modern-day Naval dockyard, Harry Potter, Count Dracula and SpongeBob SquarePants on display. Call 424-7490 for details.

Santa has elves, but I have Gift Cards.

MIC MAC MALL Gift Card

MasterCard

5295 1234 5678 9101

micmacmall.com

Say hello to your little helpers - Mic Mac Mall MasterCard® Gift Cards. They're ready when you are, in amounts from \$10 to \$500. With over 160 shops and services to choose from, gift cards are the easy way to answer every wish!

MIC MAC MALL

The Mic Mac Mall MasterCard® Gift Card is issued by Peoples Trust Company pursuant to license by MasterCard International Incorporated. MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated.

Jolie comment badly Handled?

► Comedienne called Angelina Jolie a 'homewrecker' over relationship with Jennifer Aniston's ex, reports say

It looks like Chelsea Handler's outspoken rant about Angelina Jolie may have cost her a friendship with Jennifer Aniston, according to People. "Jen and Chelsea haven't officially fallen out, but they certainly won't be going on vacation together for a long time unless Chelsea promises to never talk about Angelina again," a source says.

"She understands that what Chelsea did was out of loyalty, but it didn't help. In fact, it made things worse. Jen is a very private person."

● METRO



► Chelsea Handler



Lindsay's mom lashes out at rehab worker

Dina Lohan is striking back at Dawn Holland, the Betty Ford Center worker who was dismissed after speaking to the press about an altercation with Lindsay Lohan, according to TMZ.

"With all the fabulous employees they have, it's unfortunate that someone with this kind of background gets through," Dina says.

Holland had claimed Dina was on the phone with Lindsay at the time of their scuffle, telling her daughter to refuse a Breathalyzer test. "I stand behind my daughter 100 per cent. The whole thing with the woman is a little sketchy," Dina says. ● METRO

News in brief

Schwimmer, wife expecting

FAMILY. David Schwimmer is going to be a dad. The former Friends star and his wife, Zoe Buckman, are expecting their first child, according to Entertainment Weekly.

Dr. Drew backpedals on split prediction

ADVICE. Dr. Drew Pinsky is doing a quick about-face on his comments from earlier this week about Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt heading for a split because of her history with drugs and offered an apology, according to Radar Online.

● METRO

Williams opens up about Ledger's death

Michelle Williams is speaking publicly about the death of Heath Ledger for the first time since her ex's passing almost three years ago, telling ABC News she "got kind of obsessed with that for a while, the before and after," during a tearful interview.

"I can't find a meaning for it," said the actress, whose relationship with

Ledger blossomed when the two were filming Brokeback Mountain.

"I can find meanings in things and people and relationships that have sprung up and friendships that have strengthened. I can find a lot of meaning in that, but not in why."

The couple had a daughter, Matilda, who is now five years old.

● METRO



► Michelle Williams and Heath Ledger



Osbourne sticks up for Miley

Kelly Osbourne is coming to Miley Cyrus' defense in the wake of the Disney star being featured in an online video smoking a bong of the hallucinogenic drug salvia.

"This really makes me mad. Miley is one of the most hard working respectful women I have ever worked with. I am learning a lot from her," Osbourne posted on Twitter.

"Miley and I have become really close. I'm sick of all the haters judging her. She made one mistake, and trust me she has learned her lesson."

Osbourne and Cyrus have been filming an action-comedy movie, So Undercover, together in New Orleans. ● METRO

Celebrity tweets

Jessica Alba
[@jessicaalba]



Finally got our Xmas tree!.... I believe Xmas is already here! Who's ready? Who's not?

Seth MacFarlane
[@SethMacFarlane]



Hey America, are you really gonna eat that? Seriously? All of it? Christ.

Sarah Silverman
[@SarahK Silverman]



If self-depreciation was modesty Mother Teresa would've said "It's a kingly act 2 assist the fallen & also my thighs r gross"

3

life

Christmas past



It's unanimous: Canadians prefer traditional Christmas celebrations to modern ones, so move over, Jonas Brothers ... Elvis is still King — at least during the holidays.

"The holidays are a time for nostalgia," says Canadian caterer Madeleine Johari. "We enjoy reminiscing about the 'good ole days' during the holidays, which is why retro-themed celebrations are so popular: they're ideal for taking guests down memory lane."

Johari ensures all her events feature the classics such as Bing Crosby, canapés and rice pudding, but her most popular retro attraction is her soda fountain bar. Ice cream floats, swamp water and milkshakes are all featured with creative holiday names in a framed menu.

• NEWS CANADA



Turn leftover Christmas turkey into deluxe multigrain sandwiches.

Seasonal sippers

► The results are in! ► Canadians love their libations this time of year

Are holiday tipplings an important part of the festive season? According to 82 per cent of Canadians, the answer is yes!

In a recent poll commissioned by Evangeline PR, more than 80 per cent of Canadians indicated that a glass of festive merriment is a yuletide must.

"Canadians love to celebrate during the holidays and mouth-watering cocktails (or mocktails) make the season that much more festive," says Sherri Zielinski, president of Evangeline PR.

To ensure your seasonal sips are a smashing success, here are the Top 10 tips to ensure your bar is holiday-ready:

- Ice is nice: Make extra and store it: you can never have too much.

- If you don't have a bar, consider purchasing a bar cart: it ensures more time is spent with your guests

and not in the kitchen.

- Purchase festive-themed glassware in which to serve your tipplings.

- Decorate your bar with colours of the season such as a red velvet underlay and a green or gold overlay.

- Stock up on seasonal garnishes such as cinnamon sticks, cranberries and candy canes to transform any drink into a holiday masterpiece.

- For no muss, no fuss cocktails, choose flavoured vodkas such as Three Olives Bubble that can be served alone, with pink lemonade or lemon-lime soda for a quick, two-ingredient delicious cocktail.

- Serve up some nostalgia with soda-fountain bar drinks from yesteryear. Try Three Olives Root



► Festive glassware can add some spirit to your spirits.

Beer vodka and treat your guests to a grown-up root-beer float.

Float Santa's Boat Preparation:

1 In a frosted mug, add Three Olives Root Beer Vodka and fill with club soda. Add 1 or 2 scoops of ice cream to the top. Garnish with whipped cream and a cherry.

2 In an ice-filled rocks glass, add Three Olives Bubble vodka along with pink lemonade. Float a couple of fresh cranberries on top and garnish with a small candy cane.

Ingredients:

- 2 oz. Three Olives Root Beer Vodka
- 1-2 scoops Vanilla Ice Cream
- Club soda
- Maraschino cherry garnish
- 2 oz. Three Olives Bubble Vodka
- 2 oz. Pink lemonade
- Fresh cranberries
- Candy cane garnish

Thinking beyond the cane

► Colourful candies can be so much more than just a yummy treat at Christmastime



► A few leftover sweets can make for an instant tree decoration.

Gingerbread, gumdrops, chocolates and shortbread ... the holidays wouldn't be the same without those special nostalgic treats to satisfy our yuletide sweet tooth.

According to Madeleine Johari, Canadian caterer and candy expert, "Sweets spark fond memories of the holidays more than any other food."

Johari says "distinctive flavours such as bubble gum, root beer, licorice and peppermint conjure up images of holidays past that inspire us to reminisce with friends and family. And that's what the holidays are all about!"

For some creative ways to incorporate nostalgic sweets into your holiday celebrations and create edible memories to last a

lifetime, Johari recommends the following:

- Thread gumballs on a long piece of string to make a festive and colourful garland for your tree. It's also a great reward in January when it's time to take the decorations down.

- Create edible straws for drinks by replacing the plastic ones with licorice sticks for an extra sweet finish.

- Accessorize with sweets: on a silver platter, offer guests a selection of candy necklaces, rings, bracelets and more for easy access to the seductive smell and taste of sweets all night long; this is a kids favourite! NEWS CANADA

Delectable dumplings for the holidays

► These trendy Chinese dumplings can't fail to be a hit at holiday parties or when you and your guests ring in the New Year ► Serve as an appetizer on a chic ceramic spoon ► Use them in your wonton soup or freeze for later

To serve: Place one wonton in Chinese ceramic soup spoon, drizzle with dipping sauce. Nutritional information per dumpling (values have been rounded to nearest whole number): 38 calories, 2 g protein, 2 g fat, 4 g carbohydrates. Makes 50 dumplings.

Preparation:

1 In a bowl, combine egg, chicken, carrot, green onions, cilantro (if using), ginger, soy sauce, sesame oil, red pepper flakes, turmeric and lemon rind; season with salt and pepper.

2 Lay 1 wonton wrapper on work surface, covering remainder with damp towel to prevent drying out.

3 Moisten wonton edges with water.

4 Place heaping 5 ml (1 tsp) filling in centre; bring all 4 corners to centre and pinch together at top.

5 Seal along each edge. (Or, gather corners and twist to enclose filling.) Repeat with remaining chicken mixture.

6 In a large saucepan, bring broth to a boil over high heat; cook dumplings in batches for 6 to 8 minutes.

7 Remove with slotted spoon and set aside.

8 Dipping Sauce: In a bowl, combine honey, lime juice, carrot, vinegar, ginger and soy sauce.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients :

- 1 egg
- 500 g (1 lb) ground chicken
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) finely chopped or grated carrot
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) minced green onions
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) finely chopped cilantro (optional)
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) grated ginger root
- 10 ml (2 tsp) soy sauce
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) sesame oil
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) crushed red pepper flakes
- 0.5 ml (1/8 tsp) turmeric
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 50 wonton wrappers
- 1 l (4 cups) chicken broth

Dipping Sauce

- 45 ml (3 tbsp) honey
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) lime juice
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) finely chopped carrot
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) rice vinegar
- 10 ml (2 tsp) grated ginger root
- 5 ml (1 tsp) soy sauce



► These chicken dumplings would be a hit at any Christmas or holiday party.

Quadriplegic chef pens inspirational cookbook

► Cooking with Cory offers tasty recipes based on healthy, fresh and sustainable ingredients ► Cookbook also offers tips for the handicapped

Cory Parsons simply won't let adversity keep him out of the kitchen.

Thirteen years ago, the budding chef from Nanaimo, B.C., was severely injured in a diving accident that left him a quadriplegic.

He had been apprenticeshiping in the restaurant industry since the age of 12, but his life was totally disrupted as he came to terms with the new reality of his physical disability.

"But somehow I wanted to get back into the food industry," says Parsons, 36.

"Obviously with the level of injury I have, carrying a box of wine in a restaurant and working 14-hour days was not possible," he says.

Then the idea of writing a cookbook came to him, and the result is uplifting. His first cookbook, *Cooking with Cory: Inspirational Recipes for the Fearless Cook* (Whitecap \$29.95, paperback), is "a dream come true."

"I typed most of the book with one finger," says Parsons. Then he discovered voice recognition software, which helped him finish the book.

As a personal trainer to

others who are disabled, Parsons is a proponent of healthy, fresh and sustainable ingredients.

Readers will be able to savour his recipes including Cory's Green Coconut Curry Prawns, Crispy Crunchy Crab Cakes and Barbecued Tenderloin Steak with Goat Cheese.

His book also offers tips on tools and ideas that enable the handicapped to negotiate their kitchens without fear.

"I have become quite skilled in the kitchen," he writes in the introduction. "The adaptions include lowered countertops, plenty of room to manoeuvre my

chair and an array of carefully chosen kitchen utensils."

He also addresses the adjustment he has had to make since the accident in choosing the foods he can eat.

"I have had adverse reactions to some foods, which has forced me to change my diet," he says. A severe reaction to processed salt has led Parsons to choose Himalayan pink salt, which is unrefined.

After the accident, Parsons returned to university and studied psychology, recreational therapy and earned a diploma in crisis counselling.

He now works as a consultant for accessibility and personal relations for those with disabilities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Inspirational Recipes for the Fearless Cook



Just in time for the holidays...
Heat & Eat!

Live Lobster
Only \$6.49lb
(choice grade)



Clearwater's Own Bacon
Wrapped Scallops (340g)

Reg. \$11.99/kg
\$9.99/pkg

(16 pcs per package) (Frozen or previously frozen)



Clearwater's Own Nova Scotia
Prime Split Lobster (415g)

\$17.99
ea

Our delicious lobster can be sautéed, boiled or poached in minutes. It's that fresh lobster taste with no mess. It's sure to impress your guests.



902.443.0333
757 Bedford Hwy
9am - 7pm (Thur-Fri)
9am - 6pm (Sat-Wed)

902.873.4509
Halifax Int. Airport
6am-9pm
(7 Days a Week)

HARBOURVIEW WEEKEND MARKET
• Farmer's Market • Flea Market • Craft Market • Antiques Market

EXTENDED HOURS:
Friday: 10-3
Sunday: 11-3

42 Canal St, Dartmouth • 407-3323 • harbourviewmarket.com

4

sports

Quoted



"I'm really excited about it. I've been waiting all year for this. When they released me in the fall, they told me to work hard and there would be a possibility to be called up at Christmas."

LUKE WARNER, A 17-YEAR-OLD WINGER WHO THE HALIFAX MOOSEHEADS HAVE CALLED UP FROM THE JUNIOR A BRIDGEWATER LUMBERJACKS TO PLAY AGAINST THE CAPE BRETON SCREAMIN' EAGLES IN SYDNEY ON DEC. 28.



Scan for code for more sports

Ashley living large on the ice

He may be the shortest player on the Halifax Mooseheads' roster, but Darcy Ashley skates tall.

The Brooklyn, P.E.I., native went into the holiday break third in team scoring and second amongst rookies with 12 goals and 15 assists for 27 points in 36 games.

He has four goals and three assists in his past four games and is just starting to find his groove.

"The last little bit I'm starting to feel more comfortable and being more involved in the games as far as offensively and defensively," he said.

"I'm getting used to the pace of play, and what to expect every night ... It just took a while to adjust."

Team information shows Ashley to be the shortest and lightest player on the roster, but he says the 10 pounds he's

packed on since he got here has pushed him ahead of a couple of players in the weight department.

"You've got to use it to your advantage," he said of his size. "It's good in some ways — harder to hold onto, you can be shiftier and stuff when you're playing down low, and you've got the advantage of being a little quicker than a lot of those big guys."

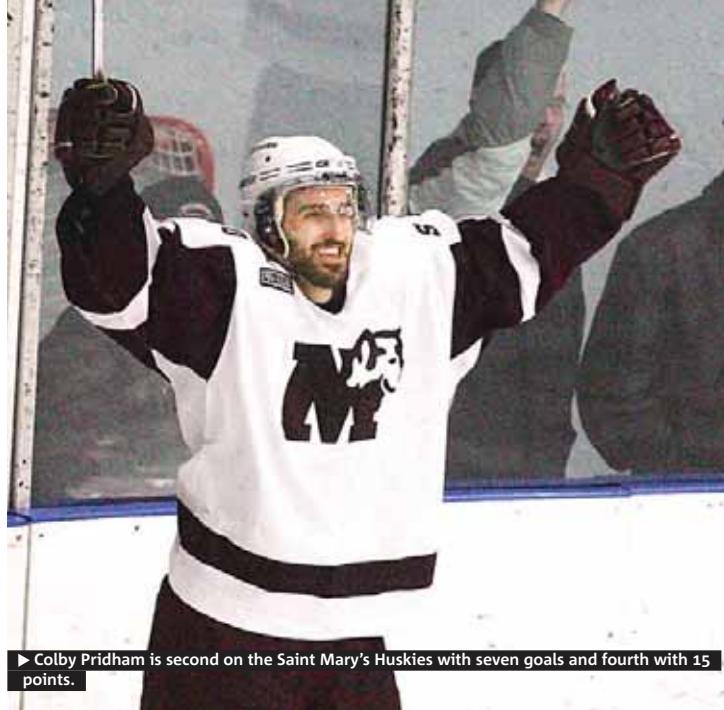


► Mooseheads rookie Darcy Ashley is coming on strong now that he's adjusted to the pace of the QMJHL.

"Sometimes you take a bit more abuse, but I think that's what makes the game fun a lot of times, that challenge."

SUMMERSIDE JOURNAL PIONEER

Husky wants shot at hoisting trophy



► Colby Pridham is second on the Saint Mary's Huskies with seven goals and fourth with 15 points.

► Pridham was a spectator due to injury as his team won last year's Interuniversity Sport men's crown

Saint Mary's Huskies forward Colby Pridham is hungry for another Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's hockey championship. But next time, he wants the thrill of hoisting the championship trophy high over his head.

Pridham was sidelined with a shoulder injury during the third period of last year's national semifinal and was forced to watch the final from the stands.

"That was probably one of the hardest things I ever had to do," admits the 23-year-old former Halifax Mooseheads forward. "It was pretty disappointing and upsetting to get that far, to that game, and not actually being able to play."

Pridham, last year's Atlantic University Sport playoff MVP, has helped

"That was probably one of the hardest things I ever had to do."

COLBY PRIDHAM, ON SITTING OUT LAST SEASON'S CHAMPIONSHIP

the Huskies to a second-place record of 10-4-1 with seven goals and eight helpers in 15 games at the holiday break.

He hadn't scored a goal going into the holiday break his first year at Saint Mary's, and last year he had only one goal at this time.

"Offensively, there's more of a role for me to play this year, and defensively, too, we lost a couple big penalty-kill players," he said. "Something I try to take pride in, too, is playing both ends."

SUMMERSIDE JOURNAL PIONEER

Bronco gets cited for assault

Broncos Pro Bowl linebacker Elvis Dumervil has been cited for assault and disturbing the peace for an alleged run-in with a security guard at Invesco Field.

Denver court records show the reported incident happened on Oct. 24, the day the Broncos were blown out 59-14 by the Oakland Raiders.

Dumervil's lawyer, Harvey Steinberg, told The As-

sociated Press the linebacker forgot his credentials and a guard wouldn't allow him into a players' parking lot, despite Dumervil showing his driver's licence.

Steinberg said Thursday that it was a simple disagreement and that it's "unfair Elvis is being villainized." The incident was first reported by Denver's KDVR-TV.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Elvis Dumervil

Sports in brief

Owner has Ryan's back

NFL. Woody Johnson is standing by his coach. The New York Jets owner said Thursday that Rex Ryan has his full support, a day after the embarrassed coach declined comment about a foot-fetish report by the blog Deadspin. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Favre shows symptoms

NFL. Brett Favre has missed his second straight day of practice. Vikings coach Leslie Frazier says his quarterback is still showing symptoms from a concussion.

The coach declined to rule out Favre for Sunday night's game against Philadelphia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McNabb's agent goes on the attack

► Shanahan defends decisions as 'not personal, but strictly professional'

Ups and downs

- Donovan McNabb was benched only once in 11 years with Philadelphia, and he's already doubled that total with the Redskins since being acquired by the team in April.
- Redskins coach Mike Shanahan said he felt Rex Grossman had a better grasp of the team's two-minute offence.
- After benching him the first time, the Redskins gave McNabb a five-year contract extension worth up to \$78 million US.
- The deal contains a clause that allows the Redskins to cut McNabb before next season with no further financial obligation.

The simmering feud between Donovan McNabb and Mike Shanahan and his son continued Thursday with a blistering statement from the quarterback's agent.

Fletcher Smith took aim directly at the Washington coach and Kyle Shanahan, the Redskins' offensive coordinator, for the way they have handled the benching of his client.

Smith said the bad blood between the quarterback and the Washington coaches is due to McNabb's suggestions for improving the Redskins' offence.

"I believe there is tension between Donovan and Kyle that's rooted in the fact that Donovan has suggested modifications to Kyle's offence based on intricacies

Donovan has learned in his NFL career," Smith wrote. "For example, Donovan has asked all year that the team run more screen passes to help manage the pass rush more effectively. Ironically, Kyle decided to employ Donovan's suggestions after he unceremoniously benched him on Sunday."

McNabb listened to questions from reporters Thursday while sitting in his car after practice, but did not answer before driving off. He was benched before last Sunday's game against Dallas and told by Mike Shanahan that he would not play the remainder of the season. Smith said in statement that the Shanahans have made comments that go beyond disrespectful and "unprecedented for a six-

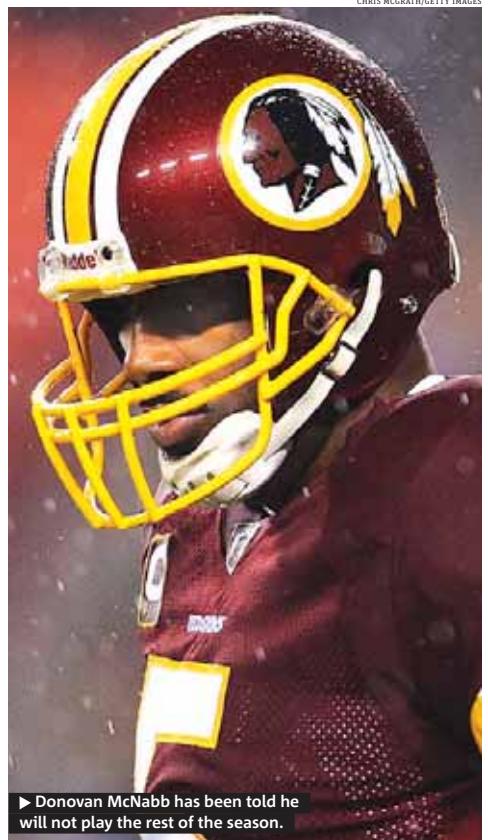
time Pro Bowl quarterback such as Donovan."

Smith said the comments made by the Shanahans — "both Mike and more specifically Kyle" — have made the quarterback's relationship with Washington difficult to maintain.

Late Thursday, Mike Shanahan responded with a statement of his own.

"As I stated earlier, when I traded for Donovan McNabb I had hoped that he would lead us to the playoffs," Mike Shanahan said. "No one wanted him to be more successful than me. When the team was 5-8 and mathematically out of the playoffs, I made the decision to evaluate our other two quarterbacks."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

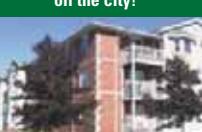


► Donovan McNabb has been told he will not play the rest of the season.

Apartment Finder

To advertise contact Krista Rodgers at 421-5861


Peaceful, country like atmosphere in the middle off the city!



- Newly renovated 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Suites
- Heat, Hot Water, Parking Incl
- Underground & visitor parking
- Private Park & Tennis Courts
- Children's Playground

WMFARES GROUP
Architect/Engineers/Project Managers
Call 880-4455 or visit us at halfifaxapartments.ca

Brand New Building



Move in before January 31, 2011, and receive generous moving allowance. Call for details.

Gardens Luxury Apartments - Immediate Occupancy!
361 Larry Uteck Blvd, Halifax, NS
357 Larry Uteck Blvd - Pre Leasing for March 1, 2011 occupancy.

Features: granite countertops, wood cabinets, large balconies, and ensuite bathrooms, wheelchair accessible

Starting at \$1340/mth
(includes: heat, hot water, parking, storage, fitness & common room)

Variety of 2 bedroom, 2 bedroom plus den, and 3 bedroom units
877-1787 • 830-9200
jeff@kiel.ca
GardensLuxuryApartments.com

SUNSET TOWERS
FULLY FURNISHED SUITES

Bachelor, One and Two Bedroom Suites Available

Daily, Weekly, Monthly

Fully equipped kitchens, laundry facilities, free parking, internet and utilities included. Located on Lake Maynard in Downtown Dartmouth, near Penhorn, Woodlawn and Mic Mac malls.

341 Portland St, Dartmouth
T: 464 1114 F: 464 1124
sunsettowers@accesscable.net

Sullivan Suites
55 Dahlia St, Dartmouth

Fully furnished Bachelor Apts
Includes all utilities, microwave, TV, dishes, linens, etc.

Contact us: **\$750** SPECIAL MONTH TO MONTH

NOVACORPPROPERTIES.COM

DRAMA. SUSPENSE. COMEDY.

Visit metronews.ca to watch **metrotube** of the day

The video everyone's talking about.

"AWESOME"
- Real user review
The free Metro Canada application is available on the App Store.
Don't have an iPhone or iPod touch? Visit m.metronews.ca for news on the move.









Find a fresh start at www.universalproperties.ca
Halifax's best quality, value and location with over 1975 apartments.

1190 Barrington Street • Halifax • Tel (902) 425-8877

Thinking of Moving? Think Highfield Park Apartments

Spacious 1 bedrooms from \$589, 2 bedrooms from \$679

- Variety of layouts and flooring options
- Most units include heat, hot water and balcony
- Fireplace in select units
- Large in-suite storage
- Centrally located on major Metro Transit bus route
- No security deposit for those aged 55+

Furnished Suites as low as \$39.99 per day
(based on 1 bedroom, 12 month lease, other terms available) *Ask for details

Ask About Our Rental Incentives!

HIGHFIELD PARK
1.888.288.9942
96 Highfield Park Drive, Dartmouth
www.oxfordresidential.ca

Crossword

Across

1 Height of fashion?
4 "Le Coq —"
7 Examinations
12 Fuss
13 Man-mouse link
14 Places in the heart
15 Sportscaster Scully
16 Winter weather factor
18 Mel of baseball lore
19 Opposite of blanco (Sp.)
20 At the home of (Fr.)
22 Keanu's role in "The Matrix"
23 Our heaviest president
27 Feedbag tidbit
29 Major fear
31 Topple
34 In two places
35 Japanese emperor
37 Hot tub
38 Rid of rind
39 Multipurpose truck
41 Wild and crazy
45 Argument
47 Miller Sebastian
48 Sculpted jingler
52 Hr. fraction
53 Where the action is
54 Plead
55 Superlative ending
56 Auto style
57 Mag. staffers
58 Red or Black

Down

1 Destruction
2 Gloria Stivic's mom
3 Three-card con
4 This way
5 East



Today's horoscope



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Others can be in a downbeat mood if they so wish but you don't see the point. Whatever problems you may have in your life they can wait a few days until you are ready to deal with them.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Is a partner or loved one telling you lies? Put your doubts and differences aside and make the most of the festive season.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Someone whose support you tend to rely on will be difficult to get hold of today, but you don't need them. You have everything it takes to make the best of your current situation.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You may think you can break the rules and get away with it and, who knows, maybe you can — but is it worth the risk. If it goes wrong the atmosphere over the holiday period will be frosty to say the least.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 Your logic circuits may tell you that certain things are not possible but at this time of year miracles are possible. You may not entirely believe that but act as if you do and it's quite likely you will work wonders.

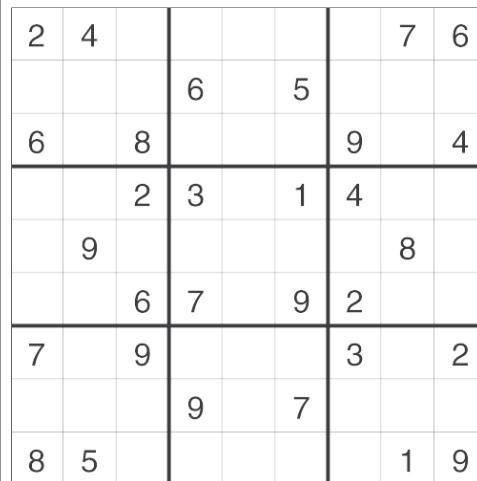
♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 There is no point making a fuss about something you don't have the power to change. It's no big deal. Put it out of your head.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 It might be wise to keep your opinions to yourself over the next couple of days, especially if you want a peaceful festive break.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Everyone makes mistakes — yes, even a Scorpio — so don't beat yourself up about something you got wrong. Compared to most people you get things right more often than not, so forgive yourself.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Why do you impose so many limits on yourself? Why do you have to be perfect all the time? Whatever the reason (assuming there is a reason) cut yourself some slack today.

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer



Send a **KISS**

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Devin.... "If I could give you one thing in life, I would give you the ability to see yourself through my eyes, only then would you realize how special you are to me..." **TOOTHPA**

*merry christmas i love you Shyla Boudreau lets try to work this out and grow into a bigger family love **OLUWA***

*Nadia, You are the octopus on my muffin. Bulbasaur to my pikachu. Protector of my struggling 16 yr. old girl. Beloved blanket thief and much more. You are my faith made manifest that the world wants me to be happy and every day I love you more. **TIGER***

*I would like to send a big kiss to my special gal Bernice, you the most amazing women I have ever known, with a smile brighter than any pearl and a heart bigger and sweeter than any chocolate bar. **LOVE DON DIEGO***

Today

2°/-4°
Flurries

40%

Saturday

-2°/-4°
Variable

IT'S LIKE HAVING A METEOROLOGIST LIVING IN YOUR POCKET.

Get your weather on the go with theweathernetwork.com

©The Weather Network 2010

Caption contest



You write it!

WIN!
Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



Feel like everyone's looking at you? They are. But don't worry. It's only because they want your Metro.

metro
News worth sharing.

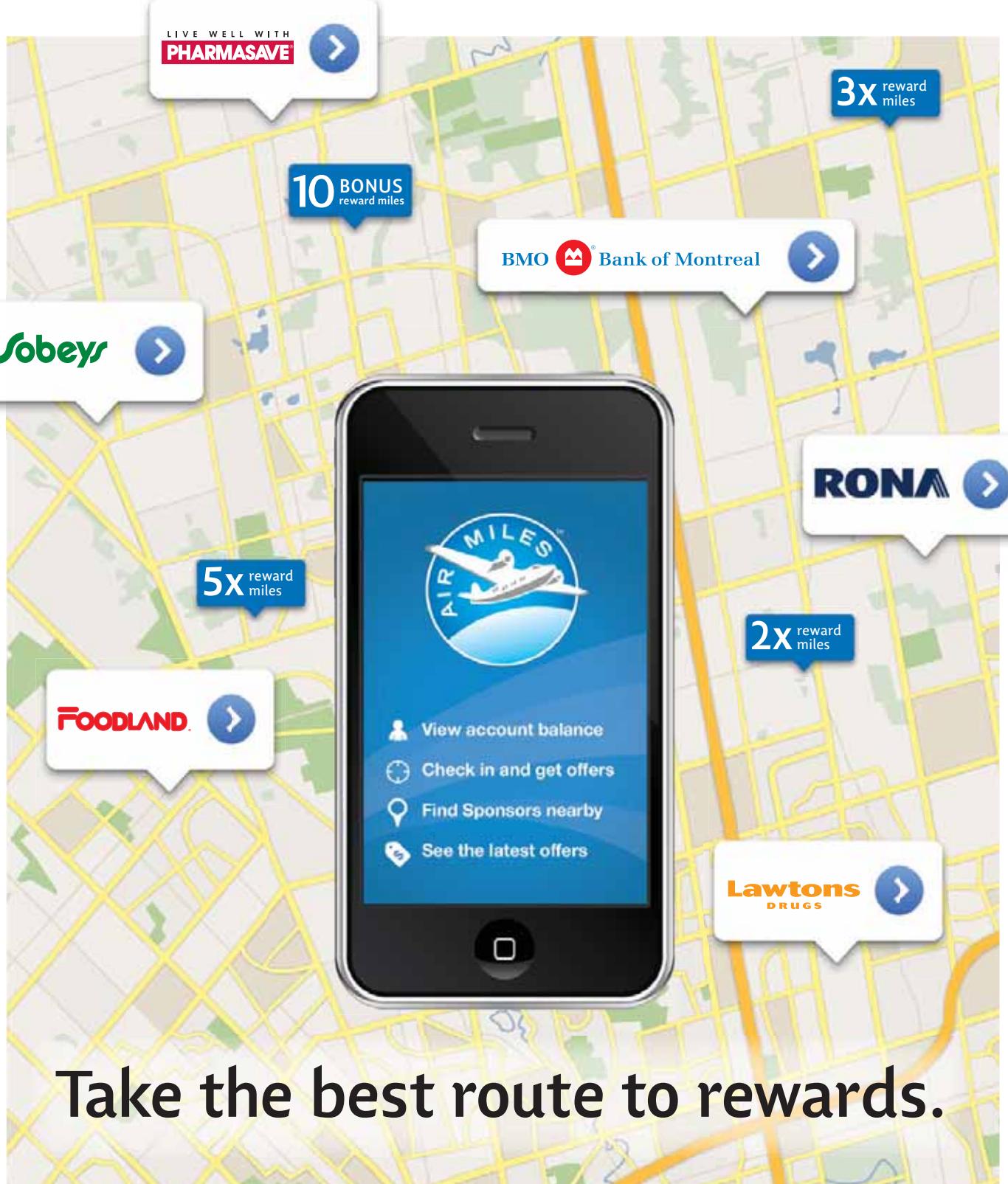
find us follow us
friend us

We're all over your city in more ways than one. Metro brings you breaking news and great reviews.

metro

BOXING WEEK SALE
DEC 15 TO JAN 15
Over 150 Discount Outlets... 110 One Hour In-Store Labs
For nearest location call: 1-877-524-2020 • www.hakimoptical.ca

HAKIM OPTICAL
50% OFF
ALL FRAMES AND LENSES



Take the best route to rewards.

Introducing the
AIR MILES® App!



Available on the
App Store

Get it at BlackBerry App World.

Text "APP1" to 26898 or visit m.airmiles.ca/app to download*

*The AIR MILES App is available for iPhone and BlackBerry devices only. Download the AIR MILES App by texting "APP1" to 26898 or visit the iTunes App store or BlackBerry App World. The AIR MILES App is free to download. Additional carrier data fees may apply. Check with your wireless service provider to determine applicable fees. Bonus offers shown are examples of offers you may find in the App. Apple Inc. is not a sponsor or participant of the AIR MILES App.

TM Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. © 2009 Research In Motion Limited. All rights reserved. BlackBerry® and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. iPhone and iTunes are trademarks of Apple Inc. registered in the U.S. and other countries.

Ward Dolson *then* *now* → Claude Stymer

THE VOLVO HOLIDAY EVENT IS ON NOW.

Best of the Season from all of us at Volvo of Halifax!

Don Mac Donald Brian McNutt
Matthew Gare Allan Dwyer Pauline Malpass
Trudy Stevenson STEPHEN ARCHIBALD
Steve Mac Donald STEVE THOMPSON

2011 VOLVO XC70

Starting from:

\$43,995*



THE VOLVO XC70: WHERE SAFETY COMES FIRST.



Volvo. for life

VOLVO OF HALIFAX

3363 Kempt Rd., Halifax • (902) 453-2110 • www.volvoofhalifax.com

*\$43,995 based on Volvo XC70 3.2L, All Wheel Drive, 6 Speed Automatic transmission. Taxes, license, insurance, \$1450 freight and PDI are extra. Offer ends December 30, 2010. Subject to availability and is limited to in-stock vehicles.